**The ABC’s of 5th Grade**

Welcome to the fifth grade! We are delighted and excited to have an opportunity to get to know, teach and work with your child. Teaching is more than a job to us, and we are so privileged to get to instruct, guide, and love your child. We will do our best to prepare your child academically and socially for his/her future years! Giving your child an excellent education in a safe, enriching, respectful environment is our top priority as we prepare your child for the transition to middle school. We appreciate your support and look forward to working closely with you and celebrating your children’s achievements and successes this year to best prepare for middle school.

**Keep the attached packet to reference throughout the year for some important information for the year.**

**What needs to be returned:**

\*\*\*\*\*\***Please return the following ASAP to your homeroom teacher \*\*\*\*\*\*\***

* $2 for Wednesday folder + $5.00 for Handwriting workbook= $7 payable to GSES (check payable to GSES or cash)
* $35 Laptop fee, (cash or **separate** check payable to GSES).
* 2 Contact Information Cards for each teacher

**(We REALLY appreciate your time to fill out BOTH cards so EACH of your child’s teachers will have correct contact information in case of an emergency)**

* Parent survey of “Getting to Know your Child”
* Signed Space Camp commitment contract (see last page of Space Camp packet)
* Lunch money for your child (if s/he will be purchasing breakfast or lunch) to the cafeteria
* Signed acknowledgement (below) of your receipt & read the attached packet
* A deposit of AT LEAST, $170 is due on September 5 to insure a spot for your child to attend Space Camp. (Final payment to total full payment of $340 is due by November 7th ) **If your child is in need of a financial scholarship, please contact Mrs. Douthit by August 31st** so we can secure the scholarship funding before payment deadline.

Thank you!!!!

**\*\*\*Sign and Return this paper with the above items to your child’s classroom teacher \*\*\***

I have read and discussed the attached packet with my child.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Parent signature / date Student signature / date

 **5th Grade Orientation**

**2019 - 2020**

Welcome to the fifth grade. We are delighted and excited to have an opportunity to get to know, teach and work with your child. Teaching is more than a job to us, and we are so privileged to get to instruct, guide, and love your child. We will do our best to prepare your child academically and socially for his/her future years! Giving your child an excellent education in a safe, enriching, respectful environment is our top priority as we prepare your child for the transition to middle school. We appreciate your support and look forward to working closely with you and celebrating your children’s achievements and successes this year to best prepare for middle school. Please contact us at any time with questions or concerns. We can be reached at:

Goldsmith-Schiffman Phone: 256-428-7150

*Shante’ Fletcher (reading/ELA & social studies)* shante.fletcher@hsv-k12.org

*Tamara Grasham (math & science)* tamara.grasham@hsv-k12.org

*Lynn Herman (math & science):* elizabeth.herman@hsv-k12.org

*Susan Mumper (math & science):* susan.mumper@hsv-k12.org

*Lori Rhonemus (reading/ELA & social studies):* lori.rhonemus@hsv-k12.org

*Shelly Wood (reading/ELA & social studies):* michele.wood@hsv-k12.org

**The ABC’s of 5th Grade**

Keep this packet to reference throughout the year for some important information for the year can be found below in abc order below:

**Absences:**

If your child is absent from school for a family emergency, illness, etc. a parent note must be sent to the teacher within 2 days of the child’s return, or it will be treated as an unexcused absence. If you would prefer to send in an excuse by email, please cc your child’s homeroom teacher when you send an email to gsesofficeaide@hsv-k12.org

If your child is out *more than 2 days*, you may call the school or email the teacher before 10:00 A.M. to get make up work to be picked up in the office after 2:35. **Make up work is due the Monday following your child’s** **return.** With advance notice, students may request work for future absences. Please notify your child’s homeroom teacher, at least 3 days prior, so a packet of missed work can be assembled and given *before* your child leaves. Most work needs to be made up when a child is absent. To alleviate make up work and regular assignments overlap, please have your child request work in advance.

**Birthdays:**

To celebrate student birthdays, parents will be permitted to buy each student in the class an ice cream treat from the cafeteria. (80 cents x 24 students = $19.20)**.** All treats will be enjoyed in the school cafeteria during your child’s lunch time. You are welcome to meet them in the cafeteria. Please ***do not*** send flowers or balloons to the school. Each class celebrates each birthday inside the homeroom in an unique way: for example - with a class-made card, a small present from the teacher, a ribbon to wear, or song.

**Cell Phones/Smart Watches:**

There are land-line phones in each classroom, staff work rooms, and the office for students to use with permission and under supervision of staff. If a student brings a device to school it must be turned **OFF** and in backpacks at all times unless directed by teacher for instructional purposes or emergency phone call. If a device is collected by a teacher, a parent or guardian must come to the office to collect the device. See updated BLG for specifics.

**Classroom Management:**

Our behavior plan focuses on student responsibility based on “Teaching with Love & Logic” by Jim Fay & David Funk. Rules in our classroom are few because the rules must be immediately remembered and all expected behaviors exemplify the rules. We expect the 4 R’s (R4) = to be respectful, be responsible, be resourceful and be ready. Each class will construct a class constitution to plan the foundation of success for all. Expected behaviors are practiced daily and reinforced positively, individually and as a group, with positive feedback, achieved outcomes, and extra privileges.

 **Classroom Rules and Standards:**

* **Be Respectful** (Listen & work without disturbing others, follow

directions the 1st time, keep hands & feet to self, able to work cooperatively)

* **Be Responsible** (Care for yourself, others, & your belongings, work independently)
* **Be Resourceful** (Conserve paper, solve your own problem, use of space and materials efficiently & orderly)
* **Be Ready** (Bring all needed materials to class)

Conduct Grade -

*(based on log entries of expected behaviors)*

G = 0 – 3 negative dojo points

S = 4 – 6 negative dojo points

N = 7 – 11 negative dojo points

U = 12+ negative dojo points

**If you choose to break the rule:** If you cause a problem,

you will be asked to solve it. If you can’t solve the problem,

or choose not to, then an adult will.

The 3 strikes in ONE DAY:

* Verbal warning and *Practice* expected behavior
* Negative Dojo point & logical consequence / silent lunch (first strike)
* Negative Dojo point & Think Sheet or note home (second strike)
* Negative Dojo point & parent conference (third strike)
* Repeated offenses and severe actions: removed from classroom & conference with parents and principal

*\*\*Receiving 7 or more negative dojo points during a quarter will result in loss of 5th grade job placement privilege.\*\**

**Communication**

*The best way to communicate with us is through* ***email****.* We will try to answer emails during PE time or at the end of the day. We **do not** respond to messages send on Facebook, Class DOJO, or other social media. Keep in mind our first priority is supervision and the academic needs of your child, therefore an email response may be secondary and take up to 48 hours to respond. A weekly newsletter

**Conferences:**

Fall “Back to School” Conferences are scheduled during the month of September and October. These are supervised student led conferences. Your child will share his/her current data and goals. All your child’s academic teachers will individually stop by during your conference slot to support your student and answer any questions. An email including an invitation & link to sign up for a conference will be sent to you in September. In addition, other parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled as needed throughout the school year. *Please contact your child’s homeroom teacher at any time to make an appointment.* In addition, a second mid-year student led conference for parent & student will be at the end of January. Look for information about this opportunity when we return from winter break.

**Computers:**

Student computers are issued to each student as a tool **for educational purposes only**. Fully charged computers need to be brought to school each day. Students who need to charge their computers at school will be given silent lunch to make up any missed work.

**Curriculum**

We will be using the Huntsville City Schools adopted curriculum for each subject. Each curriculum is aligned with the Common Core Career and Readiness Standards. For specific 5th grade standards:

<http://www.alsde.edu/home/General/alccs.aspx>

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/5/>

Highlights of the main units of study are:

* [**Science** – scientific](http://alex.state.al.us/twp/HAMPTON_COVE_ELEMENTARY/Steven_Todd_Miller/) method, engineering (Project Lead the Way), use of technology, plant & animal classifications, ecosystems, systems of the human body, the cycles of weather, rocks, and water, solar system, states of matter (density), light, and acids & bases
* [**Social Studies**– map skills, resources,](http://alex.state.al.us/twp/HAMPTON_COVE_ELEMENTARY/Steven_Todd_Miller/) and **American** history
* [**Math –**](http://alex.state.al.us/twp/HAMPTON_COVE_ELEMENTARY/Steven_Todd_Miller/) decimals, exponents, algebraic expressions, geometry, square roots, fractions
* **Writing** [**– “**Being a Writer”parts of speech, writing & editing complete multiple](http://alex.state.al.us/twp/HAMPTON_COVE_ELEMENTARY/Steven_Todd_Miller/) paragraph papers in narrative and expository forms with correct grammar and spelling
* [**Reading** –](http://alex.state.al.us/twp/HAMPTON_COVE_ELEMENTARY/Steven_Todd_Miller/) “Making Meaning” curriculum, Individualized literature choices / AR reading, stories & vocabulary
* [**Handwriting –** review D’Nealian cursive](http://alex.state.al.us/twp/HAMPTON_COVE_ELEMENTARY/Steven_Todd_Miller/)

\*\*Check weekly newsletter and/or website for current unit of study and assignments \*\*

**Dismissal:**

Before your child goes to school each day, make sure your child knows how s/he will be getting home each day, even in an event of inclement weather. **Please do not email the teacher about same day dismissal plans because she may not get to read emails if the server is “down” or until the end of the school day.** In case of an emergency and last minute unexpected change, you may **call** the school BEFORE 1:45 to get a message to your child.

 Car riders - ALL car riders will be dismissed from the first floor, back hallway and exit the northeast exterior door. Please place your child’s name on a piece of paper and place it in the front window of your car if he/she is a car rider. Stay in your vehicle for pick up. Please do not wait in the foyer to pick up your child at dismissal. Students will read silently and wait in the hallway until their name is called. If you forget your sign, you will park in the front parking lot and go into the front office with your photo ID. *All persons picking up your child must be listed on the Student Emergency contact list.* Persons not appearing on that list will **not** be allowed to pick up your child. Remember, your child’s safety is our paramount concern.

 Bus Riders - The school buses contracted by Apple Bus Services will transport authorized students to and from school. If your child is zoned and has preauthorization from Apple for riding the bus, please inform your child on the bus number given to you by Apple. If your child needs to ride home with another student on a different bus, you must write a note to the teacher and notify the bus company by calling the contracted bus company , Apple Bus Company at **(256) 361-0919**and write a note to the bus driver including your student’s name, name of student accompanying your child, and which bus stop they will be using.

 Walkers – students will be dismissed from the AV room’s exterior door. Students are not allowed to go to the lobby for dismissal. Please make sure your child is familiar with your meeting location. If your child is riding a bike, a helmet is required to ride to and from school.

 Extended Day – forms are available in the office to apply for this service provided by Appleton. Students will be dismissed directly to the cafeteria. Only those students with prearranged extended day reservations will be allowed to enter the cafeteria for dismissal.

**\*\*\* Note: Persons not appearing on the Emergency Contact List will not be allowed to pick up your child from school. Please keep your Emergency Contact Card current. Your child’s safety is our paramount responsibility. \*\*\***

**Dress Code:**

Students must wear closed-toe, rubber soled, athletic shoes for PE every day. Please help your child avoid missing valuable instructional time by making sure your child meets the dress code. To best prepare your child for further educational opportunities and a career, the dress code is adhered to each day. 5th graders tend to physically grow quickly and in spurts, shirts or bottoms that fit yesterday may not fit tomorrow. Below is the Huntsville City School dress code policy:

### HCS & GSES DRESS CODE

HCS is committed to preparing our students for college and careers beyond high schools. To be successful in either arena, students must dress in a neat, clean and appropriate manner and in clothing that encourages an atmosphere conducive to learning, work and discipline. Students will not wear any article of clothing or display any insignia or sign that shows disrespect for any person, creed, race, color, sex, or nationality, or that may lead to a disruption of the learning environment. Our goal to prepare students for the future aligns with state educational authorities and court decisions which have determined that style of dress and hair should not disrupt classes, interfere with learning, prevent instruction, and should comply with state health and safety standards. Parents/guardians are expected to be our partners by monitoring students’ dress, and the District will annually re-evaluate the dress code and survey parents and students about the dress code. As teachers and administrators enforce this dress code, they should be aware of HCS’s desire to keep students in the classroom to the maximum extent possible. Therefore, if a student’s dress is non-conforming to the dress code but not disruptive to the learning environment, the teacher or administrator should address this issue discreetly with the student in a way that minimizes lost instructional time.

 •Hat/Head Coverings: Hats, visors, and other head coverings (including sunglasses) may not be worn in school buildings. Exceptions: Head coverings that have religious significance (approved by an administrator)

* + Head coverings worn for medical reasons (approved by an administrator)
	+ Special events and/or circumstances that receive administrative approval
* Non-gang related head scarves/bandanas may be worn as an accessory
* Shirts, Tops, Blouses, T-Shirts, Hoodies: Shirts, tops, blouses, T-shirts, and hoodies that are too tight or revealing are not permitted
* Oversized shirts must be tucked in (an oversized shirt/hoodie/sweatshirt/top is defined as an excessively large and long)
* Hoodies and sweatshirts must fit appropriately. Hoods may not be worn in school buildings
* Shirts may not bare midriffs, including when arms are raised
* Halter and spaghetti strap tops and dresses are not permitted, unless covered
* Undergarments must be completely covered
* Sleeveless shirts with revealing armholes are not permitted

•Pants, shorts, skorts, skirts and dresses:

* Hemlines of all shorts, skorts, skirts, and dresses (including slits) must not be higher than the middle of the thigh
* Pants or jeans that have holes above the middle of the thigh may only be worn if opaque tights, leggings, or shorts are worn beneath. Holes in pants may not reveal the student’s hips, bottom, or undergarments
* Yoga pants, leggings, or jeggings are permitted. However, the top must cover the student’s bottom
* Students may not wear pajamas (except for special events and/or circumstances that receive administrative approval)
* Pant legs may not drag on the floor. Pants must be secured at the waist

•Other: Clothing that displays illegal behavior is not permitted. Any article of clothing, jewelry, or haircut depicting gangs, violence, sex, drugs, alcohol, mutilation or language that could be considered obscene or vulgar will not be permitted. All clothing should be worn as designed. Examples: belts buckled, no underwear as outerwear, no underwear exposed, & suspenders over the shoulder. Jewlery that could be used as a weapon is not permitted. We encourage you to think about what you are wearing and how it reflects on you. You will be seen by other students, teachers, staff, and the community. Put your best foot forward and show the world you respect yourself and your school. We encourage your individuality, but we also encourage you to dress for success. Parents/guardians are expected to be our partners by monitoring students’ dress, and the District will annually re-evaluate the dress code and survey parents and students about the dress code. Should you wear items that violate the dress code, you may be asked to change into clothing available at the school or wait in ILC while a parent or guardian brings a change of clothes. Disregard for the dress code will lead to disciplinary action, in accordance with the Behavioral Learning Matrices.

 For any questions or further clarification, please contact Mrs. Douthit.

**Field Trips:**

Field trips are scheduled to provide an enrichment opportunity & in depth exploration of our 5th grade curriculum. The following field trips are encouraged but optional for your child. To attend a field trip, your child must have a proven performance of responsibility and respect. To be ready for a field trip, your child must turn in all required paperwork and adhere to all school rules. Our 5th grade field trips may include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Destination** | **Date** | **Cost** |
| Camp Cha La Kee | Sept. 11, 12, 13 | $15 (trip + bus fee) |
| “Trash & Treasure Trip” Covanta, Humane Society, & Recycling Center |  January 21, 22, 23  | free |
| Space Camp | March 16 - 20(Friday is graduation & family day – time TBA) | $340 ( ½ payment by September 5/ Final payment by November 7) |
| HCMS  | End of April | $5 bus fee |
| “Water Works” – *microscopic study of wetlands* | May 6, 7, 8 | $20 (trip + bus fee) |
| Goldsmith-Schiffman Nature Preserve | May (during Green Fling) | free |

**Grades:**

Report card grades for each subject’s specified standards consist of homework, class work, observations, tests, and projects. Students will receive progress reports every 4-5 weeks.GSES folders will be sent home each Wednesday with graded papers*.* Parents should sign up to get automatic emails as notification when their child completed an AR test. Sign up at: <https://Hosted76.renlearn.com/76771/HomeConnect>. *In addition,* *students will keep an individual data binder in which they graph their progress. You are welcome to come into the classroom to have your child share his/her data binder with you. Encourage your child’s effort and growth in a subject (and not the grade) by* *asking if the best effort was given & if there was improvement.* Students receive G, S, N, U in Music, Art, PE, and 6 standards of Conduct. \*\*Note: *Students receiving an N or U in ANY conduct standard or a D or F in any academic subject on their grade card for* ***a quarter*** *will result in loss of 5th grade job placement privilege (if a student fulfills more than one job or student government – ALL placements will be revoked).\*\**

**Homework:**

Homework is assigned EVERY night. **Homework reinforces and practices the skills taught at school or gives the student a preview/foundation for an upcoming lesson.** The student should be able to complete his/her homework independently within 40 minutes **plus** 20 minutes of independent or shared reading. It may take longer at the beginning of the year. Please contact your child’s teacher asap if your child is having difficulty with homework. Homework assignments will usually include spelling practice, math, grammar, and reading. Quarterly interdisciplinary projects including science and social studies are assigned. *Homework assignments can be found on our 5th grade newsletter.* A HOMEWORK PLANNER (electronic planner OR a purchased paper version) SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BY YOUR CHILD AND BROUGHT HOME DAILY which is as a communication tool for you and your student. To help schedule homework with the active lifestyle of our students, help your child plan ahead. Please note that your child can effectively manage his/her time by completing many of the assignments BEFORE the eve of dates due.

**Jobs/ Leadership Opportunities:**

5th graders are the leaders and role models for our entire school. Many leadership opportunities are given to every 5th grader. **The most important job for each 5th grader is to be a successful 5th grader and role model.** Within each classroom, there are rotating classroom jobs for every student. The students who demonstrate respect, responsibility, and readiness to manage outside classroom responsibilities will be assigned 5th grade jobs and may be elected to student council. 5th grade jobs & student council require an application process. If a new student or returning student who meets the qualifications would like to apply for a job, they will be placed as openings arise. \*\*Note: *Students receiving an N or U in conduct and/or receive a D or F in an academic subject* ***during a quarter*** *on their grade card will result in loss of 5th grade job placement privilege for the remainder of the year or until another job opening is posted(if a student fulfills more than one job or student government – ALL placements will be revoked)\*\**

**Lunch / Meals:**

Please prepay for your child’s meals. Huntsville City Schools policy is a child may accumulate 2 consecutive lunch charges and then will be offered an alternate meal until the student’s lunch account is paid due. Students will not be able to borrow money from the school. Your child will be using their same lunch number as last year, so when you send in a check or cash, please be sure to put it in an envelope and write your child’s name and lunch number on the outside.  **You can also check your child’s account balance, pay, and replenish funds as needed on line**. Check the Huntsville City School’s website for further information. If you would like to join us for lunch, just send a note in advance to your child’s teacher so adequate lunches can be prepared.Adult lunches are $4.25. **No commercial food or soda (McDonald’s & Coke, etc.) are allowed because of new federal cafeteria guidelines.**

Breakfast = $1.50 (served in the cafeteria)

**Lunch = $2.65**

A variety of a la cart items are available for purchase (fruit roll ups, flavored water, etc). Take time to make sure your child is aware of what your directive is regarding their lunch account and extra items. Students are allowed to purchase ice cream for 80 cents.

*If a student brings a lunch from home, the meal needs to be ready to eat. Refrigeration is not available nor is heating the meal.*

**Schedule:**

 7:35 = Students may enter building & silently read in a specified classroom to silently read (Breakfast is available for purchase in the cafeteria.)

 7:50 = Students may enter classroom & begin morning work

 8:00 = School Begins / **Tardy bell**

\*Independent meaningful morning work *(great time to take AR tests!!)* while staff holds specialized skill groups for intervention\*

 8:15 = 2 Core subject rotations (ELA or Math = each rotation is 120 minutes)

 12:25 = Recess / Lunch *(variances due to individual class schedules – see homeroom for specific schedule)*

 1:15 = Science / SS subject rotation

 1:50 = PE *(variances due to individual class schedules – see homeroom for specific schedule)*

 2:30 = Dismissal

**Snacks:**

If your child needs a snack during the day, please send **a healthy** snack. Teachers will provide a designated snack time for their class. Fruit, cheese, crackers, pretzels, and dried cereal are suggested. Please do not send “sugar snacks” such as candy, cookies, or pudding --- they attract ants. (NO metal lids, forks, or spoons) Snacks may not be liquid. **Example: Bring an apple not applesauce or fruit cup in liquid**. Water bottles with sport tops are allowed when used responsibly. (**WATER ONLY!** – no sports drinks or powdered additives) A bottle cozy is strongly recommended to help prevent condensation accidents on papers & books.

**Supplies:**

Student computers are issued to each student as a tool for educational purposes only. Fully charged computers need to be brought to school each day. In addition to the computer, students will need additional supplies. Pencils, dry erase markers, books, etc are equally important supplies that need to be managed by the student every day to be a successful student. Supplies your child will need:

* 4 composition notebooks
* 1 composition notebook with graph paper
* 3 plastic folders with pockets & brads (any color)
* 2 packages of loose leaf notebook paper
* 1 ream of printer paper (any color)
* Zipper pencil pouch
* Earbuds/headphones
* Ruler with inches and centimeters
* Scissors
* 2 glue sticks
* Sharpened pencils (24 count)
* Expo markers – 4 count
* Colored pencils – 12 count
* crayons
* 2 red pens
* 2 highlighters
* $ 7 = $2 for GSES folder + $5 for handwriting book
* dry erase marker eraser or sock

Kleenexes, disinfectant wipes, extra pencils, printer paper, post-it notes, and extra pencils & dry erase markers are ALWAYS needed and are used every day. Donations of these items throughout the school year are GREATLY appreciated!!

**Volunteers:**

Parents are one of the many keys to a child’s success. We appreciate your help very much. If you are interested & available to help out in the classroom or bring things home to do & return, please sign up at our Open House or contact your child’s teacher*. Every parent is vital for the success of our classroom. There are opportunities for volunteering once a week or once a month in the classroom with our reading buddy program, supervising field trips, planning & implementing class parties, sharing your special talent, and working from home by sending in supplies and helping your child. In addition, see our classroom wish list and Reading list for needed donations.* **Please remember that younger siblings cannot be taken on field trips and should not be in the building while you are volunteering.** Thank you in advance for your help.

**Websites:**

You and your child will need access to the following websites:

1. AR: receive immediate emails regarding your child’s tests, and view all the books your child has taken AR tests on by accessing –

<https://Hosted76.renlearn.com/76771/HomeConnect>.

(The link below also lets you access AR test results but the link above is the one you need to use to sign up to get immediate emails – and view the “cool” bookshelf graphic holding all the book covers of the books your child has read. Use your child’s login and password on the sticker in their green homework folder. )

1. STAR reports: check your child’s quarterly reading & math STAR Enterprise computer test results. The results rank your child’s score by nationally normed percentile and grade level equivalent. Use the following link to learn more and *request authorization* to access this information online:

<http://www.hsv.k12.al.us/dept/merts/staffdev/Star_Enterprise/index.php>

(After you follow the directions and receive a confirmation email, you can check STAR scores, child’s current AR test scores and number of words your child has read through the above link.)

1. Grades in all academic subjects: you can view your child’s grade in the teacher’s electronic grade book. Use this link to sign in from a home computer to access your child’s grades:

<https://inow-huntsville.asc.edu/informationnow>

 (If you do not have your parent login/password from last year, please contact the GSES office. Classroom teachers do not have access to parent logins and passwords).

All above links are available on the Huntsville City Schools webpage.

**Wednesday Folders:**

GSES folders are sent home each Wednesday. Please review graded papers with your child. PTA information, teacher’s notes, permission slips, and other correspondence will be placed on the left side of the folder. Please initial on the appropriate date and return the folder on Thursday. KEEP ALL GRADED PAPERS unless different instructions are given. ***Take time to access your child’s INOW online grades at this time to cross reference what you receive in the Wednesday folder and check for any missing assignments***. GSES folders cost $2.00 and are available from the classroom teacher. Additional GSES folders may be purchased from the office.